

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the overall zirconium compound content is from 0.5 to 10% by weight.
4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more water-soluble zirconium compounds is selected from the group consisting of ammonium zirconium carbonate, zirconium acetoacetate, zirconium hydroxychloride, zirconium orthosulfate, zirconium propionate and potassium zirconium phosphate.
5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the one or more water-soluble zirconium compounds is ammonium zirconium carbonate.
6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more zirconium compounds are added to the coating composition as solids and/or as aqueous solutions.
7. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating composition includes at least one additive, wherein the at least one additive is selected from the group consisting of film formers, pigments, fillers, thickeners, dispersants, wetting agents, preservatives, emulsifiers and defoamers.
8. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, based on the overall amount of the monomers, the copolymers comprise:
- a) from 70 to 99.7% by weight of one or more free-radically polymerizable olefinically unsaturated compounds selected from the group consisting of acrylates and methacrylates of (C₁-C₁₂) monoalcohols, vinylaromatic monomers, vinyl esters of (C₁-C₁₂) alkanemonocarboxylic acids, vinyl halides, α,β -monoolefinically unsaturated nitriles and alkyl esters of monoolefinically unsaturated dicarboxylic acids,

A'

Please add new claims ~~13~~ through 22 as follows:

- A²

c) from 0 to 20% by weight of compounds selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl-containing monomers, acetylacetoxy-containing monomers, monomers containing epoxide groups, monomers containing silane groups, nitrogen-containing monomers and monomers containing keto groups.

17. (New) A paint comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.
18. (New) A primer comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.
19. (New) A wood coating comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.
20. (New) An exterior render comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.
21. (New) An interior plaster comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.
22. (New) A compound comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of adhesives, pastes, putties, sealing compounds and pressure compensation coatings for exterior insulation and finish systems
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